GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3782
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
FREE TRADE OF COTTON
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether China's refusal to allow free trade of cotton will have negative implications for Indian cotton growers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and remedial steps taken thereon;and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the condition of cotton growers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)& (b): As per the information available with the Ministry of Agriculture there is restriction on export of cotton from China, but there is no restriction on import of cotton to China.The value of the export of raw cotton including waste from India to China during the period April- December,2007 increased by about 36% over the corresponding period of 2006.

(c): Government is implementing a Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) which consists of four Mini Missions.Mini Mission-I deals with research and development of improved cotton production and crop protection technology and is being implemented by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

Mini Mission-II deals with the developmental programmes for increasing production and productivity of the cotton and is being implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.Under this Mini Mission,assistance is provided for production and distribution of seeds of varieties/hybrids not older than 15 years,transfer of technology mainly through demonstrations, training of farmers and extension workers,plant protection measures including IPM demonstrations, supply of sprayers, pheromone traps,bio agents as well as water saving devices like sprinklers and drip irrigation system etc.

The Mini Mission-III focuses on the development of marketing infrastructure by undertaking activities like construction of marketing yards,auction centers, grading facilities,laboratories for testing of cotton qualities etc.The upgradation and modernization of ginning and pressing factories to improve quality of cotton is under taken under Mini Mission IV.The Ministry of Textiles,Government of India,implements Mission-III and IV with the main aim to improve the quality of cotton.